CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1.   (currently amended) Method for recording and storing the optically detectable data of <u>an</u> object on a storage medium, ~~characterized in that a~~ <u>comprising the steps of making</u> ~~sequence of~~ a plurality of individual recordings of the object ~~are made~~ with a <u>single</u> camera at various spatial settings with respect to the relative position between the object and the camera <u>without adjusting camera settings</u>; ~~in that~~ <u>determining</u> the sharply imaged areas of the individual recordings ~~are determined~~; and ~~in that~~ <u>assembling</u> the sharply imaged areas of all the individual recordings ~~are assembled~~ to form <u>at least</u> one ~~or a plurality of~~ resulting ~~images~~ <u>image</u>.

2.   (currently amended) Method as defined in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ <u>further comprising the steps of storing</u> the individual recordings ~~are stored~~ in a computer; ~~in that the~~ <u>whereby in the</u> sharply imaged areas of the individual recordings are determined by the computer with the aid of digital methods; and ~~in that~~ the resulting images are assembled with the aid of the computer.

3.   (currently amended) Method as defined in Claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ <u>wherein</u> the sharply imaged areas are determined by digital formation of the derivative.

4.   (currently amended) Method as defined in Claim 1, ~~Claim Claim, characterized in that~~ <u>wherein</u> the parameters for recording ~~the~~ <u>a</u> sequence of individual recordings are predetermined by a computer; and ~~in that~~ the sequence of the recording is controlled by ~~this~~ <u>the</u> computer.

5.   (currently amended) Method as defined in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ <u>wherein</u> the recording of the ~~sequence of~~ individual recordings is started automatically.

6.   (currently amended) Method as defined in Claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ <u>wherein</u> the recording ~~of the sequence~~ of individual recordings is started by means of a photoelectric barrier.

7.   (currently amended) Method as defined in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ <u>wherein</u> the individual recordings are made at fixed, predetermined time internals.

8.   (currently amended) Method as defined in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the individual recordings are made at fixed, predetermined ~~relative~~ distances between the camera and the object.

9.   (currently amended) Method as defined in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a CCD camera is used as the camera for recording the sequence of individual recordings.

10.   (currently amended) Method as defined in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising the steps of storing all the individual recordings of the sequence ~~are stored~~ in ~~the~~ a computer; and ~~in that~~ determining the sharply image areas ~~are identified~~ after recording of the ~~sequence of~~ individual recordings has been concluded.

11.   (currently amended) Method as defined in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sharply imaged areas of the individual ~~recording of the sequence~~ recordings are identified and incorporated into the resulting image immediately after ~~they~~ the individual recordings have been ~~recorded~~ made.

12.   (currently amended) Method as defined in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein ~~the~~ a plurality of resulting images ~~is~~ are assembled from the ~~sequence of~~ individual recordings, different areas of the object or different features of the object being shown in the resulting images ~~in each instance~~.

13.   (currently amended) Method as defined in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising the steps of dividing an image plane ~~is divided~~ into a plurality of areas; and ~~in that~~ processing the areas ~~are processed~~ in parallel.

14.   (currently amended) Method as defined in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein ~~it~~ the at least one resulting image is used to identify the features of a finger.

15.   (currently amended) Method as defined in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising the steps of illuminating the object ~~is illuminated~~ with a light source.

16. (currently amended) Method as defined in Claim ~~5~~ 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a pulsed light source that is synchronized with the camera is used.

17. (currently amended) Method as defined in Claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the object is illuminated by a plurality of light sources of different wavelength ranges and in different arrangements.

18. (currently amended) Method as defined in Claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the object is illuminated as long as it is moving towards the camera and away from the camera.

19. (currently amended) Method as defined in Claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein only ~~the~~ areas of the object that are within ~~the~~ focus of the camera are illuminated.

20. (currently amended) Apparatus for carrying out a method according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising a computer, a camera, and a control device ~~are provided~~.